

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A device for conveying products along an endless conveying path, comprising:

a frame;

an elongated flexible conveying element supported by the frame, which includes links that are pivotable relative to each other about vertical pivots, each link including two sublinks, which sublinks are pivotable with respect to each other about a horizontal pivot; and load-carrying platforms each having a supporting surface at an upper side, which supporting surfaces jointly form a substantially closed, common supporting surface for the products, which load-carrying platforms are connected to the conveying element via supports and whose the supporting surfaces adjoin each other at curved forward and rearward edges thereof, and drive means for driving the conveying element, the drive means including a driving element and the conveying element including an element driven by the driving element, wherein the driven element forms part of the links of the conveying element.

Claim 23 (Original): The device according to claim 22, wherein the driven element includes a friction surface for driving the conveying element through frictional contact between the drive means and the friction surface.

Claim 24 (Original): A device according to claim 22, wherein the driving element includes a linear motor and the driven element comprises a reaction member for cooperation with the linear motor.

Claim 25 (Original): A device according to claim 24, wherein the linear motor extends on two opposite sides of the links.

Claim 26 (Original): A device according to claim 25, wherein the links are provided with at least one recess at a location of the linear motor.

Claim 27 (Original): A device according to claim 24, wherein the linear motor extends on a bottom side of the links.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A device ~~according to claim 22, wherein for conveying products along an endless conveying path, comprising:~~
a frame;
an elongated flexible conveying element supported by the frame, which includes links that are pivotable relative to each other about vertical pivots, adjacent links are being interconnected via a fixable pin member that is pivotable between two pivoted positions, with respect to which pin member the links can pivot, the pin member including a first pin member part having a first vertical central axis for pivoting movement of a first of the adjacent links about the first pin member part, and a second pin member part having a second vertical central axis for pivoting movement of a second of the adjacent links about the second pin member part, which first and second central axes are spaced a distance apart; and
load-carrying platforms each having a supporting surface at an upper side, which supporting surfaces jointly form a substantially closed, common supporting surface for the products, which load-carrying platforms are connected to the conveying element via supports and the supporting surfaces adjoin each other at curved forward and rearward edges thereof,

and drive means for driving the conveying element, the drive means including a driving element and the conveying element including an element driven by the driving element, wherein the driven element forms part of the links of the conveying element.

Claim 29 (Canceled)

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A device according to claim [[29]] 22, wherein each load-carrying platform includes two platform parts, which are pivotable with respect to each other about a horizontal pivot.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A device according to claim [[29]] 22, wherein the horizontal pivot associated with two platform parts extends at least substantially straight above a horizontal pivot associated with two sublinks.

Claim 32 (Original): A device according to claim 22, wherein adjacent load-carrying platforms overlap under associated supporting surfaces at the curved forward edges and the curved rearward edges.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A device ~~according to claim 22, wherein for conveying products along an endless conveying path, comprising:~~
a frame;
an elongated flexible conveying element supported by the frame, which includes links that are pivotable relative to each other about vertical pivots; and
load-carrying platforms each having a supporting surface at an upper side, a length of at least one supporting surface [[is]] being different from lengths of other supporting surfaces,

which supporting surfaces jointly form a substantially closed, common supporting surface for the products, which load-carrying platforms are connected to the conveying element via supports and the supporting surfaces adjoin each other at curved forward and rearward edges thereof, and drive means for driving the conveying element, the drive means including a driving element and the conveying element including an element driven by the driving element, wherein the driven element forms part of the links of the conveying element.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): A device ~~according to claim 22, wherein for conveying products along an endless conveying path, comprising:~~

a frame;
an elongated flexible conveying element supported by the frame, which includes links that are pivotable relative to each other about vertical pivots; and
load-carrying platforms each having a supporting surface at an upper side, which supporting surfaces jointly form a substantially closed, common supporting surface for the products, which load-carrying platforms are connected to the conveying element via supports and the supporting surfaces adjoin each other at curved forward and rearward edges thereof, and drive means for driving the conveying element, the drive means including a driving element and the conveying element including an element driven by the driving element, at least one load-carrying platform ~~includes~~ including first adjusting means for adjusting the length of the associated supporting surface, wherein the driven element forms part of the links of the conveying element.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A device ~~according to claim 22, wherein for conveying products along an endless conveying path, comprising:~~

a frame;

an elongated flexible conveying element supported by the frame, which includes links that are pivotable relative to each other about vertical pivots, a length of at least one link is being different from a length of other links; and

load-carrying platforms each having a supporting surface at an upper side, which supporting surfaces jointly form a substantially closed, common supporting surface for the products, which load-carrying platforms are connected to the conveying element via supports and the supporting surfaces adjoin each other at curved forward and rearward edges thereof, and drive means for driving the conveying element, the drive means including a driving element and the conveying element including an element driven by the driving element, wherein the driven element forms part of the links of the conveying element.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): A device according to claim 22, wherein for conveying products along an endless conveying path, comprising:

a frame;
an elongated flexible conveying element supported by the frame, which includes links that are pivotable relative to each other about vertical pivots, at least one link includes including adjusting means for adjusting a length of the at least one link; and
load-carrying platforms each having a supporting surface at an upper side, which supporting surfaces jointly form a substantially closed, common supporting surface for the products, which load-carrying platforms are connected to the conveying element via supports and the supporting surfaces adjoin each other at curved forward and rearward edges thereof, and drive means for driving the conveying element, the drive means including a driving element and the conveying element including an element driven by the driving element, wherein the driven element forms part of the links of the conveying element.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): A device according to claim 22, wherein for conveying products along an endless conveying path, comprising:

a frame;

an elongated flexible conveying element supported by the frame, which includes links that are pivotable relative to each other about vertical pivots; and

load-carrying platforms each having a supporting surface at an upper side, a proportion between length and width of the supporting surfaces is being maximally 0.4, which supporting surfaces jointly form a substantially closed, common supporting surface for the products, which load-carrying platforms are connected to the conveying element via supports and the supporting surfaces adjoin each other at curved forward and rearward edges thereof, and drive means for driving the conveying element, the drive means including a driving element and the conveying element including an element driven by the driving element, wherein the driven element forms part of the links of the conveying element.

Claim 38 (Original): A device according to claim 22, wherein at least one longitudinal side of the common supporting surface is free from any screening thereabove over at least part of a length of the common supporting surface.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): A device according to claim 22, wherein for conveying products along an endless conveying path, comprising:

a frame;

an elongated flexible conveying element supported by the frame, which includes links that are pivotable relative to each other about vertical pivots;

load-carrying platforms each having a supporting surface at an upper side, which supporting surfaces jointly form a substantially closed, common supporting surface for the

products, which load-carrying platforms are connected to the conveying element via supports
and the supporting surfaces adjoin each other at curved forward and rearward edges thereof,
and drive means for driving the conveying element, the drive means including a driving
element and the conveying element including an element driven by the driving element,
wherein the driven element forms part of the links of the conveying element; and

a screening edge having a width of maximally 5.0 cm [[is]] provided above at least one longitudinal side of the common supporting surface over at least part of a length of the common supporting surface.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): A device according to claim 22, wherein for conveying products along an endless conveying path, comprising:

a frame;
an elongated flexible conveying element supported by the frame, which includes links
that are pivotable relative to each other about vertical pivots;
load-carrying platforms each having a supporting surface at an upper side, which
supporting surfaces jointly form a substantially closed, common supporting surface for the
products, which load-carrying platforms are connected to the conveying element via supports
and the supporting surfaces adjoin each other at curved forward and rearward edges thereof,
and drive means for driving the conveying element, the drive means including a driving
element and the conveying element including an element driven by the driving element,
wherein the driven element forms part of the links of the conveying element; and

a screening edge is present positioned under at least one longitudinal side of the common supporting surface at a distance of maximally 1.0 cm from the load-carrying platforms, over at least part of a length of the common supporting surface.

Claim 41 (Original): A device according to claim 39, wherein the at least one longitudinal side is located on an outer side of the endless conveying path.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): A device ~~according to claim 22, wherein for~~
conveying products along an endless conveying path, comprising:

a frame;
an elongated flexible conveying element supported by the frame, which includes links
that are pivotable relative to each other about vertical pivots; and
load-carrying platforms each having a supporting surface at an upper side, which
supporting surfaces jointly form a substantially closed, common supporting surface for the
products, which load-carrying platforms are connected to the conveying element via
crossbeams and the supporting surfaces adjoin each other at curved forward and rearward
edges thereof, each load-carrying platform [[is]] being supported by at least three supports
crossbeams, and drive means for driving the conveying element, the drive means including a
driving element and the conveying element including an element driven by the driving
element, wherein the driven element forms part of the links of the conveying element.

Claim 43 (New): A device according to claim 42, wherein each crossbeam supports at least three load-carrying platforms and is rigidly connected to one of the at least three load-carrying platforms.